



Meeting Summary

Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership

Organizational Board/Stakeholder Meeting

Attendance: Lauren Duncan, Ashley Giles, Steve Germaine, Diane Kielty, Kelly Cline, Evelyn Rhodes, George Marlin, Brian Tracy, Suzanne Boccia, Adrienne Kroepsch, Sam Zrust, Ryan Gilliom, Suresh Niraula, Jeremy Jones

Meeting Goals:

- Update the group on all that has been going on since the last meeting and progress made.

Agenda

12:00 PM Welcome, introduction of new attendees

Ashley Giles and Lauren Duncan introduced themselves. Both attend intermittently.

12:10 PM Member & Partnership updates

- MOU Signatures and next steps (Evie)
 - Celebration for MOU – MOU is finalized. It has been turned into DocuSign and emailed to all signatories last Friday. There are nine entities. Once signed by all the members will receive a final pdf version. Next steps will be organization structure, bylaws, etc. An agreement with COCO is in the queue to assist with hiring for organization administration. It was noted that if members are going to support the Partnership with funding, government budget planning is 1-2 years out.
- CMAT SWOT Exercise review (Kelly)
 - Story Map Link ([Storymap Report](#)) – The Evergreen area organized a community mitigation assistance team and put together a SWOT exercise (Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats in each area). Brought together stakeholders in the area and delivered a story report with the objectives and opportunities. The SWOT exercise gave them a structure to proceed in the form of an action plan. One-on-one interviews did take place after the event to explore what other areas are doing for mitigation. Clear Creek County will be pursuing the [CMAT process](#)

for the county and this could be beneficial for all of Clear Creek. It can become a centralized hub for all information.

- Bylaws Committee (Evie)

There is a rough draft of the bylaws. Once a solid draft is ready it will be shared for feedback.

Action: Committee to the draft bylaws review are Evelyn Rhodes, Suzanne Boccia, Kelly Cline, and Brian Tracy

- Members update (meetings/webinars/projects)

- Ashley Giles provided an update on the **Clear Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan**. These plans are an outgrowth of the CO Water Plan. This is effort for each watershed to develop a strategy to manage their own watershed. People in community know best how to manage their water issues. These plans require a great deal of stakeholder engagement. The idea would be to get projects in place to circumvent catastrophes.

It was determined that an Integrated Watershed Plan will be helpful for the area. A focus group has been created to identify and reach out to the greater community to identify potential projects to pilot. They have money from CWCB to populate a map of projects in Phase II of the planning effort. They have begun stakeholder outreach. They will be using the Matrix Pre-fire Study and other existing plans to populate their project maps.

George Marlin Clear Creek County mitigation funding update. Durable investment in mitigation is going to require a ballot measure. They chose not to do that this year, but there may be another mechanism, a Forest Health District that could levy a sales tax. It was expressed that this is worth consideration. Many grants that are available may be a few years off for the Clear Creek drainage. A district may get Clear Creek on the radar to be considered for larger grant opportunities. PELA for healthier air and water in Colorado – Special district lawyers. St. Vrain Water Conservancy District looked into this. May be a resource to give some guidance.

<https://svlhwcd.org/> - The St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District was organized April 19, 1971 as a non-profit water conservancy district under the Water Conservancy Act of the State of Colorado (Colorado Revised Statutes of 1973, Section 37.45-102 to 152, as amended). The District is a quasi-municipal corporation and a political subdivision of the State of Colorado with all powers

thereof which include the power to levy taxes against property within the District. The District is administered by an appointed Board of Directors.

Colorado Forest Health Project Financing - Concerning increased options for financing forest health projects, and, in connection therewith, financing wildfire mitigation treatments - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1008>

Lauren Duncan, TU – UCCWA awarded TU a grant for a Russell Gulch project. They will be working on improved infrastructure spending on Grizzly Gulch with reclamation focus on getting mine waste out of the creek. It is a historic location. They are working on Lions Creek where tailings have been moving down the creek above the town of Empire. The Missouri Creek project will have students in the field soon for the fall semester.

Ashley Giles, West Denver TU, CDOT is moving on next phase of I-70 expansion on Floyd Hill. Working through NEPA process. There will be impacts to the Creek. Ashley is on the SWEEP Team looking at alternatives and mitigation opportunities. This could tie into projects identified in pre-fire study. TU National has new priorities. Clear Creek as a whole has not been identified as a priority water. West TU petitioned but entire watershed not identified, although upper watershed areas were identified for TU National funding.

Clear Creek Greenway / Peaks-to-Plains initiative include in on the ground project opportunities.

12:45 PM Speaker

- We are looking for a speaker for the next meeting

12:50 PM Contract Update Outreach Efforts (Diane)

- High priority Project Targets – Presented a story map draft under development focused on Silver Plume to Barkerville.
- Healthy Rivers Fund – The Missouri Creek Project received an award of \$20,000. The agreement is anticipated to come through in August.

1:15 PM Next Steps & Action Items

- COCO contracts – Work with the lawyers to get this contract going after the MOU is signed

- Feedback on NoCo Fireshed Charter (Ryan) – A charter is under development, and they are asking organizations including ours to either sign on or provide a non-binding letter of support. There is a large amount of federal money available for these initiatives and the Partners could benefit by being involved with this group.

1:26 PM Adjourn.

May – August, 2022, Virtual Meeting Info –

CCWFHP Monthly Meeting

Time: June 1st, 2022 12:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the First Wed, 4 occurrence(s)

Jun 1, 2022 12:00 PM

Jul 6, 2022 12:00 PM

Aug 3, 2022 12:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/tZwocumsqz8vGt04u4-K4mc0aelSosWvSKxl/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGgqz4qHtGRtRmORpw-GY_4c-jwmCIYjbcNyAqxTgsHbwCmN-dOAb1sJ87j

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 885 5045 4509

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